Some Tools in the Advocacy Communications Toolbox
PRESS & MEDIA

BLOGS

EMAILS TO NETWORKS

ONLINE ACTIONS
  SPEAK-OUT CAMPAIGNS
  GENERATE EMAIL MESSAGES
  GENERATE FAXES
  ACTIVATE PHONE CALLS

SOCIAL MEDIA
  FACEBOOK
  TWITTER
SpeakOut Action on UnemployedWorkers.org
Supporting SB 994 – Clean EB Fix
Don’t Cut-off PA’s Unemployed Workers! Pass SB 994 to Continue Extended Benefits!

Unless Pennsylvania lawmakers take action soon, long-term unemployed workers in Pennsylvania will lose up to 20 weeks of unemployment compensation known as Extended Benefits on June 11, 2011. Senate Bill 994 would allow Pennsylvania’s unemployed to keep these federally-funded benefits.

On June 11, 2011, an estimated 45,000 unemployed workers in Pennsylvania will be cut-off of the Extended Benefits they’ve been receiving — unless the legislature acts. Pennsylvania’s Department of Labor and Industry estimates that a total of 135,000 jobless workers could lose eligibility for these benefits this year starting on June 11th.

The federal government now covers 100% of the cost of these benefits for non-government employees. All the state needs to do to continue receiving these federally-funded benefits is to enact a technical fix to the state unemployment insurance law. Senate Bill 994 would do just that.

Republicans and Democrats in every one of Pennsylvania’s neighboring states— Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, West Virginia and Maryland— have all recently passed the needed Extended Benefits legislation. In total, 24 states have already acted to allow individuals to continue these benefits.

Thanks to federally-funded Extended Benefits, more than $1.5 billion additional dollars flowed into Pennsylvania since the recession started — benefiting unemployed workers and businesses alike. 200,000 of us, our friends, family members, and neighbors have counted on these benefits to put food on the table and a roof over their heads.

This small legislative change, with no cost to Pennsylvania, is the only thing that stands in the way of unemployed workers being able to secure the benefits they, and the local economy, so desperately need, and that the federal government is underwriting.

It’s time for Pennsylvania lawmakers to act.

Please send a message to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett now?

Click on “Participate” to send Governor Corbett a message: Don’t Cut-off Pennsylvania’s Unemployed Workers! Support passage of SB 994 to Continue Extended Benefits!

Also, please call Governor Corbett with that message:

Call Corbett: 717-777-2600

Target Faxes and Phone Calls to Sen. Pileggi, Sen. Gordner and Governor
Dear Friend,

Unless Pennsylvania lawmakers take action soon, long-term unemployed workers in Pennsylvania will lose up to 20 weeks of unemployment compensation known as Extended Benefits on June 11, 2011. Senate Bill 994 would allow Pennsylvania’s unemployed to keep these federally-funded benefits.

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Please send a message now! Tell Pennsylvania lawmakers: “Don’t cut-off unemployed workers! Pass Senate Bill 994 to continue Extended Benefits in Pennsylvania!”

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UnemployedWorkers.org Email to PA e-subscribers
4/26/11
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*Please send a message now!* Tell Pennsylvania lawmakers: "Don’t cut-off unemployed workers! Pass Senate Bill 994 to continue Extended Benefits in Pennsylvania!"

Thanks to federally-funded Extended Benefits, more than $1.5 billion additional dollars flowed into Pennsylvania since the recession started — benefiting unemployed workers and businesses alike. Over 200,000 of us, our friends, family members, and neighbors have counted on these benefits to put food on the table and a roof over their heads.

This small legislative change, with no cost to Pennsylvania, is the only thing that stands in the way of unemployed workers being able to secure the benefits they, and the local economy, so desperately need, and that the federal government is underwriting.

It’s time for Pennsylvania lawmakers to act.

*Please send a message to Senator John Gordner, Senator Dominic Pileggi and Governor Tom Corbett now!*  

Click on "Participate" to send Senator Gordner, Senator Pileggi and Governor Corbett a message:  

*Don’t Cut-off Pennsylvania’s Unemployed Workers!*  

*Pass SB 994 to Continue Extended Benefits!*  

Also, please call them with that message:  

Sen. Gordner: 717-787-8928  
Sen. Pileggi: 717-787-4712  

To get started, Click the “Participate” button.  

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UnemployedWorkers.org Email to PA e-subscribers  
4/26/11
TELL PA GOV. CORBETT: DON'T CUT-OFF UNEMPLOYED WORKERS! SUPPORT SB 994 TO CONTINUE EXTENDED BENEFITS

Posted by: Mitchell Hirsch on Apr 27, 2011

Unless Pennsylvania lawmakers take action soon, long-term unemployed workers in Pennsylvania will lose up to 20 weeks of unemployment compensation known as Extended Benefits on June 11, 2011. Senate Bill 994 would allow Pennsylvania's unemployed to keep these federally-funded benefits.

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Blog post linking to the online SpeakOut 4/27
Stop the UC Cuts in PA! Vote ‘NO’ on HB 916

A bill that would drastically cut Unemployment Compensation (UC) benefits for large numbers of Pennsylvania’s unemployed is moving in the General Assembly, and votes are expected as early as Monday, May 23.

HB 916 would make permanent, harmful reductions in benefit amounts and weeks of eligibility for many of Pennsylvania’s unemployed workers, as well as disqualify many unemployed workers entirely.

We need to act now to tell our PA legislators to oppose UC cuts in PA, and vote ‘NO’ on HB 916.

HB 916 would harm Pennsylvania’s unemployed workers in the following ways:

- Lowering benefits amounts ($463 million in cuts annually) and reducing the number of weeks that many unemployed could get benefits (another $48 million in cuts annually).
- Changing the definition of “willful misconduct” to deny UC benefits to workers whose mistakes were not intentional.
- Denying UC benefits to workers forced to leave their jobs for family or medical reasons—those fleeing domestic violence, dealing with lost child or elder care, providing care for sick family members, or suffering from medical conditions that prevent them from performing their jobs.
- Offsetting 100% of severance payments, even if those payments are required by law or contract.

Supporters of HB 916 claim that it is needed because the UC Trust Fund, out of which benefits are paid, is out of money and borrowing from the federal government. But they would deal with the debt entirely by cutting UC benefits to the unemployed, and employers would not be required to pay their fair share.

Act now to send a message to your State Representative.

SpeakOut to Stop HB 916 5/17/11
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Email with links to SpeakOut to stop HB 916
5/17/11
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Please act now to send a message to your State Representative. Here’s how:

1. Click here or on the "Under Attack, Fighting Back" graphic above to send a click-to-send email message. On the message page just enter your full PA home address (including St., Rd., Ave. etc.) and click "Participate" to send your message today: Stop the UC Cuts in PA! Vote ‘NO’ on HB 916.

2. Call your State Representative. Click this link to find your legislator and their office phone numbers. Call and tell them: Stop the UC Cuts in PA! Vote ‘NO’ on HB 916.

We want every State Representative to receive both a phone call and an email message -- and that's particularly important if you're in Montgomery, Chester, Bucks or Delaware Counties!

Many thanks for fighting back.

The Unemployedworker.org Team

Email with links to SpeakOut to stop HB 916
5/17/11
Tweets and ReTweets 5/23/11

#PAHouse @RepScottPerry says his bill to slash UC jobless benefits would restore UC solvency. Bull. It cuts benefits. Period. 23 May

RENEW UnemployedWorkers laidoffleftout
@PAChamber 's HB 916 to slash PA jobless benefits blames jobless workers for UC insolvency while businesses only pay 1.17% of wages in taxes 23 May

RENEW UnemployedWorkers laidoffleftout
RT @PALabor2010: And now, @RepScottPerry leads the charge to reform #unemployment comp on the backs of most vulnerable #statesos 23 May

RENEW UnemployedWorkers laidoffleftout
#PAHouse Bill 916 sponsor @RepScottPerry complains unemployment taxes are higher on employers who lay off more workers, go cut benefits!
@PAChamber  NO - HB 916 - your bill to slash UC benefits and disqualify jobless workers will not make UC system solvent. #JustHurtsWorkers
24 May

RENEW UnemployedWorkers
laidoffleftout UnemployedWorkers
PA Workers: Keep the calls and emails going to #PAHouse "Stop the UC Benefit Cuts - Vote NO on HB 916" http://bit.ly/ijrgaH #stateSOS
24 May

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laidoffleftout UnemployedWorkers
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23 May

Twitter messages 5/24 including #PAHouse hashtags, replies to @PAChamber and @RepScottPerry
Twitter tweets and Retweets as HB 916 is defeated in the PA House
Blog post recounting the effort that led to the defeat of HB 916
Multiple Twitter accounts, feeds, hashtags using Tweetdeck
A Coordinated Effort

Unified, coordinated, effective and timely set of messages

Multiple allies representing diverse constituencies

All making use of as many of the advocacy communications tools in the toolbox as possible, simultaneously